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ON BETTING.

The following letter was addressed by the late Charles Kingsley to a public schoolboy, who had put money into a sweepstakes without thinking it was wrong:

"*My Dearest Boy*—There is a matter which gave me much uneasiness when you mentioned it. You said you had put into some lottery for the Derby, and had hedged to make safe. Now all that is bad, bad—nothing but bad. Of all habits, gambling is the one I hate most and have avoided most. Of all habits, it grows most on eager minds. Success and loss alike make it grow. Of all habits, however much civilized men may give way to it, it is one of the most intrinsically savage. Historically, it has been the peace excitement of the lowest brutes in human form for ages past. Morally, it is unchivalrous and unchristian. 1. It gains money by the lowest and most unjust means, for it takes money out of your neighbor's pocket without giving him anything in return. 2. It tempts you to use what you fancy your superior knowledge of a horse's merits—or anything else—to your neighbor's harm. If you know better than your neighbor, you are bound to give him your advice. Instead, you conceal your knowledge to win from his ignorance; hence come all sorts of concealments, dodges, deceits—I say the devil is the only father of it. I'm sure, moreover, that the head-master would object seriously to anything like a lottery, betting or gambling. I hope you have not won. I should not be sorry for you to lose. If you have won, I shall not congratulate you. If you wish to please me, you will give back to its lawful owners the money you have won. If you are a loser in gross thereby, I will gladly reimburse your losses this time. As you put it, you could not in honor draw back until after the event. Now you can give back your money, saying that you understood that the head-master and I disapprove of such things, and so gain a great moral influence. Recollect always that the stock argument is worthless. It is this: 'My friend would win from me if he could, therefore I have an equal right to win from him.' Nonsense. The same argument would prove that I have a right to maim or kill a man if only I give him leave to maim or kill me if he can and will. I have spoken my mind once and for all on a matter on which I have held the same views for more than twenty years."

A SERMON IN SAND.

The worker stayed his weary hand
And bowed his aching head,
"Alas! It is but work in sand!
'Tis all in vain," he said.

But just within his sight there lay
A little piece of stone,
He'd found upon the walks one day
And in the corner thrown.

And there upon the stone he spied
The marks of footprints plain;
"The marks but made in sand," he cried,
"For ages they remain.

"Who works e'en sand with all his strength,
He never works alone,
For God will touch the sand at length,
And harden it to stone."

E.

RUSSIA CAN HAVE FOUR MILLIONS OF SOLDIERS.

The official report of the Russian army lately published, contains the following particulars, says the *London Times*: The first of January, 1886, there were 824,762 men, including 8000 volunteers, in the active army.

The reserve amounted to 1,600,815 in addition, thus making a total of 2,425,577 soldiers whom Russia could bring into the field at need. In Germany the maximum of the regular army and the landwehr combined is computed at 1,800,000 men. Moreover Russia has at its disposal 2,160,000 militia liable to be called upon in time of war to recruit the ranks of the regular army.

The number of young men annually liable to conscription is 852,000, of whom about one-half are exempted by lot. If the term of service were reduced from five to three years, the State would in a short time be able to have 4,000,000 regular troops without having recourse to the militia reserves. The Russian journals refer with jubilation to these practically inexhaustible resources as compared with other countries.

At present there is no such thing as a force of irregulars, but it is pointed out that nuclei for troops of that description exist in ample measure among the tribes of Central Asia, of the Caucasus, and of the Transcasian provinces.

In addition to 235,000 conscripts to be called out this year, 2400 new recruits are to be raised in Kuban, Terek, and the Transcaucasian provinces.

RECEIPTS TO JANUARY 23, 1890.

MAINE.

A friend, Dennysville, \$ 5 00

MASSACHUSETTS.

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Congregational Church, Templeton, 10 00
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"R. S.," annual membership, 2 00

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